



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**

**Dinas A Sir Abertawe**

Councillor Mark Child  
Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

Councillor June Burtonshaw  
Cabinet Member for Place

**BY EMAIL**

*Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:  
Llinell  
Uniongyrchol:*

*e-Mail  
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref  
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref  
Eich Cyf:*

*Date  
Dyddiad:*

**Scrutiny**

**01792 636292**

**scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk**

**6 August 2014**

Dear Councillor Child and Councillor Burtonshaw,

**Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel  
17 July 2014**

The Panel met on 17 July and received a presentation from Richard Rowlands, Corporate Improvement, regarding the Corporate Improvement Plan 2013/17, we are grateful to Richard for his attendance at the meeting and the advice and information he provided to us.

We have a number of questions about the Corporate Improvement Plan that relate to your portfolios, particularly around housing. We would be grateful if you could provide us with responses to the following questions:

**F1: Affordable Housing**

**Measure: Number of new affordable housing units provided/needed**

- How much money has been provided to the Local Authority through commuted sums and what use has been made of this?
- At what stage are new Affordable Housing units included in the figures, is it when planning permission is granted, when building is completed or when an occupier moves in?

Overview & Scrutiny / Trosolwg a chraffu

City and County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN / Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

**E1: Social Services and Housing staff trained in welfare rights and benefits advice**

**Measure: number of staff/workers trained in welfare rights/benefits advice appropriate to their role.**

- The figure in the Improvement Plan provides a total number of staff across the Authority who received welfare rights/benefits training. However we would like more specific figures from Social Services Department and the Housing Service regarding the % of staff who have undergone this training and whether there is an on-going programme to ensure that relevant staff (who may be dealing with these issues) receive this training.

**F3: Sustaining Council house tenancies**

**Measure: % of tenants staying in their Council tenancy for more than 2 years.**

- Has the Council made use of the DWP fund for Discretionary Housing Payments to assist Council tenants who are in arrears due to the Housing Benefit Changes, if so how many tenants have been helped and what amount of funding has been accessed?
- Has the Council made use of its power to request that Housing Benefit is paid directly to it as landlord in cases where tenants have gone into arrears and been unable to manage their finances? If so, in how many cases has this occurred?

It would be helpful to receive your reply to this letter by 6 September 2014 so that it can be included in the agenda of a future Scrutiny Programme Committee meeting at the earliest opportunity. We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



**Councillor Mary Jones**

**Convenor, Service Improvement and Finance Performance Panel**

\* **[Mary.Jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Jones@swansea.gov.uk)**